

**POLICY RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL – MARCH 2023****ACCOUNTS SOFTWARE PACKAGE**

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**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with the background and reasons for the change in finance software package that will take place on 1 April 2023. The Council has been contracted to RBS Rialtas since October 2018 on the premis that the software package would aid with year end AGAR reports. Rialtas has instigated price increases following the recent acquisition by Harris Computer Systems; and has not proved reliable.

**2.0 RECENT ACQUISITION AND PRICE INCREASE.**

- 2.1 An announcement was made on October 2022 that RBS Rialtas had been acquired by Harris Computer Systems, a public Canadian corporation. This raised concerns with regards to the future of Rialtas however the Council was assured that there would be no tariff increases.
- 2.2 In January 2023 RBS Rialtas announced the price increase for the new financial year. The increase is substantially higher than in previous years. The total cost of running with Rialtas from April 2023 to March 2024 equates to £4,094.00. This includes software, monthly cloud fees and year end close down.

<b>Software Module</b>	<b>Support and Maintenance Yearly Fee 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Support and Maintenance Yearly Fee 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>Price Increase</b>	<b>Percentage increase</b>
Omega CashBook /ManAccs/ Annual Budgets	£395.00	£500	£105.00	21.00%
Omega - Making Tax Digital VAT Submission (Per Company)	£59.00	£100	£41.00	41.00%
Sales Ledger	£146.00	£200	£54.00	27.00%
Purchase Ledger	£146.00	£200	£54.00	27.00%
Purchase Order Processing	£146.00	£200	£54.00	27.00%
Asset Inventory	£169.00	£225	£56.00	24.89%

## **APPENDIX 10D**

### **3.0 SOFTWARE ISSUES**

- 3.1 Issues with the present finance system and support have caused unnecessary work. The Council has raised numerous support tickets relating to issues with the current Rialtas software not working and to date a minimum of these issues have been resolved. Rialtas are aware of the issues and have confirmed other users are experiencing the same but do not have a software fix to date or a timescale of when these will be resolved.
- 3.2 The current system doesn't have the facility to create the reports required for Council. Officers are currently extracting data and manually creating reports to ensure they are fit for purpose. This is time consuming.

### **4.0 CONTRACT CANCELLATION**

- 4.1 A contract cancellation quote was requested in October 2022. The quote end fee to exit the contract early was £4,016.72 excluding VAT. However, due to the excessive price increase quoted in January 2023 for the forthcoming financial year the Council has been able to exit the contract at year end without incurring exit fees.

### **5.0 NEW FINANCE PACKAGE COMMISSIONED**

- 5.1 AdvantEdge is an alternative software package that allows us to control our own year-end close off without having to book the software company to close down on our behalf which incurs additional fees. We will be able to generate our own tailored reports to suit the Council's needs. AdvantEdge supports improved accessibility for allotments and moorings. The software contains many time saving add ons to allow more effective data entry and accounting practices. An example of this is the ability to repeat monthly invoices at the push of a button. At present we are entering repeat invoices in their entirety each time they are generated.
- 5.2 AdvantEdge is the package recommended by the internal auditor for this Council based on size, services and invoice frequency.
- 5.3 The cost of AdvantEdge is significantly cheaper than RBS Rialtas. AdvantEdge provides all the services Rialtas offers and more. The cost of AdvantEdge for a 5 year contract is £1,517.00 per annum which includes Finance, allotments and asset manager plus £1,004.90 for the initial setup and training. The package is for 5 concurrent users.

## APPENDIX 10D

Details	Qty	Unit Price	Net Amount
<b>INITIAL SETUP</b>			
AdvantEDGE Setup per concurrent user	5	£62.00	£310.00
AdvantEDGE Client Configuration per module	3	£82.00	£246.00
<b>TRAINING</b>			
AdvantEDGE Online Training - Finance (3 hours)	1	£246.00	£246.00
AdvantEDGE Online Training - Allotments (2 hours)	1	£164.00	£164.00
AdvantEDGE Online Training - Asset Manager (1 hour)	1	£82.00	£82.00
<b>ANNUAL FEES</b>			
AdvantEDGE Finance, Band 6, upto £1million pa, 5 Year Contract, annual fee	1	£830.00	£830.00
AdvantEDGE Allotments, Band 3, upto 100 plots pa, 5 Year Contract, annual fee	1	£238.00	£238.00
AdvantEDGE Asset Manager, Band 2, upto 500 items pa, 5 Year Contract, annual fee	1	£193.00	£193.00
AdvantEDGE additional concurrent user	2	£128.00	£256.00
<b>Discount</b>	1	-£43.10	-£43.10

### 6.0 ADDITIONAL ACCOUNTS

AdvantEdge facilitates additional accounts at reduced cost; with the potential Trust accounts required and the request from Blackfield and Langley to source accounts package to assist in the keeping of their accounts this provides a valuable resource. The cost of an additional account for the Football Club is a minimum £296.50 per annum. For Xero Accountancy software this equates to £360 for a basic package.

### 7.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- the Committee note the difficulties and expense of the RBS Rialtas, the move to AdvantEdge, and considers what reports it would wish to be provided to Committees and Council.
- The Council approves the setting up of two additional accounts and the cover of one year AdvantEdge licence fees for the football club. Trust account to be setup when required.

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